

## Claims:

1. A security system for an electronic device having a memory, the security system comprising means arranged to interact with the electronic device to acquire at least a portion of the memory of the electronic device, and an access system arranged to control access to the acquired memory independently of an operating system of the electronic device.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means arranged to interact with the electronic device is arranged to interact directly with the operating system.
3. A system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the means arranged to interact with the electronic device is arranged to interact with a memory management unit of the device.
4. A system as claimed in any claim 3, wherein the memory management system is manipulated to remove references to the acquired memory.
5. A system as claimed in claim 3 or 4, wherein the access system is arranged to control access to at least selected registers of the memory management unit.
6. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the acquired memory is hidden from the operating system.
7. A system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims comprising a filter driver.
8. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the electronic device comprises a selected one of a personal digital assistant (PDAs), a mobile telephone and a laptop.
9. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the operating system comprises a selected one of Windows CE<sup>®</sup> or PocketPC.

10. A system as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the access system is arranged to protect at least selected registry settings associated with the acquired memory such that they cannot be modified by other applications.

5 11. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the access system is arranged to maintain a copy of correct values for the selected registry settings, monitor the registry settings and reset registry settings where incorrect values are detected.

10 12. An encryption system including the security system as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the memory acquired by the security system is used to store the encryption/decryption key or keys of the encryption system.

13. A method of protecting at least a portion of a memory of an electronic device comprising the steps of:  
15 interacting with the electronic device to acquire at least a portion of the memory of the electronic device and controlling access to the acquired memory independently of an operating system of the electronic device.

20 14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of interacting includes interacting directly with the operating system.

15. A method as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the step of interacting includes interacting directly with a memory management unit of the device.

25 16. A method as claimed in any claim 15, further comprising the step of manipulating the memory management unit to remove references to the acquired memory.

17. A method as claimed in claim 15 or 16, further comprising the step of controlling access to at least selected registers of the memory management unit.

30 18. A method as claimed in any of claims 13 to 17, further comprising the step of hiding the acquired memory from the operating system.

19. A method as claimed in any of claims 13 to 18, further comprising the steps of protecting at least selected registry settings associated with the acquired memory such that they cannot be modified by other applications.

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20. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising the steps of maintaining a copy of correct values for the selected registry settings, monitoring the registry settings and resetting registry settings where incorrect values are detected.

10 21. A computer program comprising computer program code means arranged to perform all of the steps of any of claims 13 to 20 when said program is run on a computer.

22. A computer program as claimed in claim 21 embodied on a computer readable medium.